

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the Claim Amendments and the following remarks.

B. Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 5-9 are pending and presented for further prosecution. Claims 1-4 had been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 9 has been added.

Claim 5 has been amended to more clearly point out that the sink includes a basin having a bottom with an opening and the separation vessel communicates with the opening for intaking the wastewater. Support to this amendment can be seen as the parts 2 and 2a in figures 1-6.

Claim 5 has also been amended to correct a typographical error, where the separation vessel was intended. Support for this correction can be seen from the

figures 1-6, where the lower cock 5d attaches to the side of separation vessel 5.

Claim 9 has been added to recite a second open/close means provided below the predetermined water level in the side of the separation vessel for depleting sedimentary garbage. Support to this new claim can be seen in figures 1-6, part 5d.

No new matter has been added in the amendments.

C. Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kelly. The Examiner cited fig. 1 of Kelly to teach a sink including all elements as previously claimed in Claim 5: a separation vessel, a water storage vessel forming a u-shaped passage as a whole together with the separation vessel, a draining means, and an open/close means provided at the side of the water storage vessel. The Examiner also took the same positions toward Claims 7 and 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kelly relates to a grease trap, it does not teach a sink. To make this position clear, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include a

basin having a bottom with an opening as the first element and pointed out the separation vessel communicates with the opening for intaking wastewater. The basin and the opening in the basin's bottom are shown in figures 1-6, as part 2, the sink basin molded together with other parts, and part 2a, the opening for draining wastewater into the separation vessel.

Kelly does not teach a basin having a bottom with an opening, therefore Kelly can not anticipate claim 5 and its dependent claims 7-8.

D. Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly in view of Maranville. The Examiner cited Maranville to teach a sink with a buffer vessel (formed by element (10) in Maranville). Although the admitted that neither Kelly nor Maranville teaches a buffer vessel formed between the separation vessel and the water storage vessel, he asserted that placing the buffer vessel between the separation vessel and water storage vessel is merely an arrangement preference which would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 6 depends on Claim 5. Applicant has amended claim 5 to include a basin having a bottom with an opening.

As discussed in section C, Kelly does not teach such a basin. Maranville relates to an oil and water separator, which does not teach or suggestion an integrated basin with an opening either.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the combination of Kelly and Maranville does not render the subject matter in Claim 6 obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention and the claims 5-8 are patentable over the cited references standing alone or in combination.

E. New Claim 9

The subject matter of claim 9 is directed to a sink capable of separating oil and, in the meantime, removing the sediments from the sewage. It recites a second open/close means provided below the predetermined water level in the side of the separation vessel for easy removal of the debris. This second open/close means is shown in figures 1-6 as part 5d, the lower cock.

No cited reference teaches this lower cock. It is respectfully submitted that the new Claim 9 is patentable.

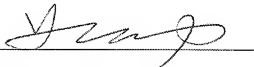
F. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby requested. Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yaodong Chen', written over a horizontal line.

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